



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Baltimore District

# The Corps'pondent

a newsletter by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the residents of Spring Valley

Vol. 1, No.4

June 1999

## Corps to investigate remaining areas on Glenbrook property

by Maj. Brian Plaisted  
Spring Valley  
Operations Officer

During June 7-9, we will investigate and remove the remaining anomalous areas of interest at the Glenbrook Road property as part of our ongoing effort to identify and remove WWI remnants from the site.

Since the Vapor Containment Structure will not be used during this part of the investigation, residents of seven neighboring homes and

officials at American University have been notified of this upcoming investigation. Arrangements have been made to protect their safety during the work.

As a result of this work, a portion of Glenbrook Road from 49th Street to Rockwood Parkway will be closed to motorists from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Motorists are advised to use Rockwood Parkway as an alternative route during these three days, while the work proceeds.

Please see the sign on the back of this page.

During this upcoming work, we will continue to do everything we can to ensure that the community is safe and disruption is kept to a minimum.

We will continue to report daily work updates, so please call our Spring Valley information line at **1-800-434-0988**, or visit our web site at [http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/environmental/spring\\_valley.htm](http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/environmental/spring_valley.htm)

### Maj. Brian Plaisted

As on-site operations officer for the Spring Valley project, Maj. Plaisted manages the day-to-day activities for the Corps' investigation at the Glenbrook Road property. Prior to this project, he has managed a variety of Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure environmental restoration projects. Maj. Plaisted can be reached by calling the Spring Valley Resident Office at (202) 686-3359.

## Excavation of disposal pit on Glenbrook property continues

To date, the excavation of the first of two possible burial pits on the Glenbrook property, has resulted in the removal of 132 various kinds of ordnance-related items, several unfused wooden training aides, intact glass jars, several intact cylinders, portions of metal drums, ceramic pottery, part of a WWI protective mask and miscellaneous pieces of

glass. The majority of these items have been classified as non-hazardous, but a panel of ordnance experts has further evaluated several items, such as the intact and fused ordnance items. Results of their investigation are expected soon.

As of May 28, technicians have dug to a depth of 7.5 feet across the pit. In the 44 days of work, 432, 55-

gallon barrels were filled with excavated soil and removed from the 13' by 23' pit.

The soil was transported to the federal property where samples were tested daily. Four soil samples removed from a depth of 4 to 5 feet in the pit showed small amounts of dithiane, a mustard breakdown product. A drum removed on

April 19 contained a small amount of mustard. No other samples taken here indicated any chemical warfare materials or byproducts.

Due to the number of items found in the pit and the need to move the vapor containment structure at this first location, the schedule for completing this location and the second potential pit area has been moved to November.